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welcomed by two orders of the lay brotherhood. The traveller whose *Wanderlust* takes him to the far corners of the earth, and the traveller who, never leaving his comfortable fire and lamp, voyages over the rustling country of a map, will both find the book packed full of interesting material. The main part is devoted to the cultivation of the staple tropical products. In crisp phrase and with abundant illustration, are set forth the agricultural and industrial processes by which some of the great commonplaces of daily life are produced. Rice, sugar, tea, coffee and cocoa, nuts, spices and fruits, have their histories, discoveries, migrations and adaptations, not unlike those of the peoples who live by consuming them. The descriptions of the development of the tobacco, opium and hemp industries, the adaptation of the Brazilian cinchona to the Asiatic tropics, and the subsequent monopolization of the quinine trade by Java, are chapters from the world politics of the vegetable kingdom.

Throughout the book, and especially in the part in which is outlined a progressive agricultural policy for a tropical country, we feel the point of view of the British Colonial official, who sees the development of the tropics carried on by European and American planters, by means of European and American capital. With regard to the future of the American island dependencies, the book cannot be passed over by our students of colonial affairs.

The most persistent tradition of the American people as a whole, Mr. Croly finds* to be a belief, that owing to their favorable conditions and natural enterprise a future of unusual promise and greatness awaits them. "The substance of our national Promise has consisted of an improving economic condition, guaranteed by democratic political institutions, and resulting in social amelioration." Following the Jeffersonian principle of governmental non-interference, the majority of the people in the frontier days of the Republic and in the Middle Period felt that the fulfilment of the Promise was inevitable, and, therefore, admitted the greatest individual latitude in their economic organization. The minority—and Mr. Croly does not hesitate to consider them the intelligent minority—advocated, though not effectively, the Hamiltonian principle of national responsibility.

* "The Promise of American Life," by Herbert Croly. The Macmillan Company. 1909.

Since the close of the Civil War the "laissez-faire" policy of economic individualism has tended to create such inequality of fortune and power as to undermine the bases of Democracy and to threaten the Promise of the Future. Mr. Croly holds a brief for the centralization of political power in the hands of the Federal Government, for the control by a responsible public body of the economic organizations, especially the labor organizations, and for the gradual socialization of all forms of wealth. "If any critic likes to fasten the stigma of socialism in the foregoing conception of democracy" the author is "not concerned with dodging the odium of the word." Indeed, to a candid reader it is difficult to distinguish between Mr. Croly's "constructive Individualism" and the ideals of the conservative state Socialists.

The penalty which the twentieth-century American pays for his patriotism is apt to be periodic fits of depression, when he considers the number of insoluble national problems. Tariff, trusts, socialism, strikes, congestion, crime—present problems that harry our souls for solution, and may possibly be solved by our great-grandchildren. From these latter-day plagues we turn to this book as to the fresh west wind, that blows away our highly specialized modern germs, and cools our overheated modern houses. We read again the romance of America in the making, told not in treaties, battles and bargains, but in the lives of a few great Americans. Daniel Boone, hero of many Indian fights, discoverer of the Wilderness Road; Thomas Jefferson who doubled the territory of the United States to the tune of fifteen million dollars; General Jackson, who covered himself with various shades of glory in the acquisition of Florida; all stand as central figures in the drama. Houston, moving spirit in the annexation of Texas, Benton in the occupation of Oregon, Fremont in the Conquest of California, present another trio, differing in character and temperament and yet possessing one great trait in common, an overpowering interest in the building up of their country.

These biographies appeared serially in the "Outlook," and have now been gathered together in book form.* The final effect of

* "The Romance of American Expansion," by H. Addington Bruce. Moffat, Yard & Company. New York: 1909.